

Sue had curly hair. She had the curliest hair of anyone in the third grade. It hung down in foot-long ringlets. Yes, Sue had curly hair.

"Hey! Curly-Sue!" shouted someone. Sue would not turn around. "Curly-Sue, Curly-Sue," she heard. "That's not my name," said Sue with tears in her eye. "Please stop it. Leave me alone. My name is Sue, Sue Potts."

Sue was sad as she walked home with her friend, Daryl. "Why do people make fun of me? They are so mean," said Sue. Daryl thought for a minute. He said, "Yes, it is mean. But do you remember calling Terry a 'smarty-pants' on Monday only because he made an A? You made a C and you were mad."

"I know," said Sue, "but it is not the same. They are making fun of the way I look, not about how smart I am. Anyway, I was not trying to be mean to Terry. I was just mad at myself for making a low grade."

"I think it hurt Terry's feelings anyhow. People always tease him like calling him 'bookworm' because he is so smart," said Daryl. Then he had to go. His house was on the next street.

Sue headed for her house. As she was walking to her door, she looked down the street and saw Miss Lowe. Miss Lowe was the most beautiful woman Sue had ever seen. She was very tall and had long, dark hair that matched her big brown eyes. She had a sweet smile and waved down the street to Sue. Sue returned the wave and the smile. She sighed as she thought how nice it would be to look like Miss Lowe.

Later that day, Sue helped Mom in the yard. She saw Miss Lowe working in her yard. Sue walked down the street to say hello. Miss Lowe was happy to have a visitor while she worked.

"How are you, Sue?" she asked. "I'm sad," said Sue. "Everyone calls me names because I have curly hair. I wish I looked like you." Miss Lowe laughed. She said that people used to call her "Too-Tall-Tracy" in school. Sue could not believe it! Miss Lowe was so pretty.

"We all have been hurt by mean names. You just have to remember how it feels," said Miss Lowe.

Sue thought about Terry. She smiled and knew she would never call names again.

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